

4-7-2020

COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 5)

Center for Disease Medicine, New York Medical College

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Recommended Citation

Center for Disease Medicine, New York Medical College. (2020). COVID-19 Newsletter (vol. 5). Retrieved from https://touro scholar.touro.edu/nymc_covid19_newsletter/6

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NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

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Center for Disaster Medicine



Tuesday April 7, 2020

During this COVID-19 pandemic and other future events, the CDM will continue to be a source of reliable information, education and models for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

David Markenson, M.D., M.B.A.
Director
Center for Disaster Medicine

COVID-19 Statistics

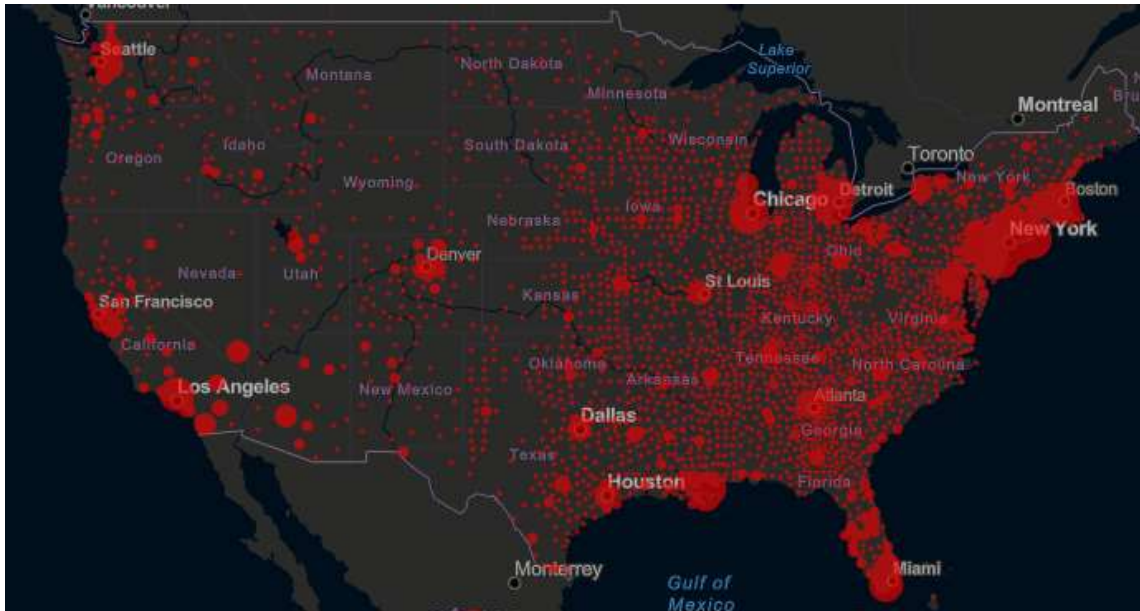
	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Total Recovered
Worldwide	1,359,398	75,945	289,109
United States	368,449	10,993	19,919
New Jersey	41,090	1,003	No Data

New York	131,830	4,758	No Data
Connecticut	6,906	206	No Data

Information as of 4/7/20 at 0600 EDT. Source:

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

United States COVID-19 Case Map / GIS



Federal Updates

- The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is working with partners to develop new medical countermeasures and take other actions to enhance health security. ASPR's Novel Coronavirus Resources page highlights resources identified or developed to address current response and recovery operations to COVID-19. <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/COVID-19>
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) ASPR has issued guidance on the use of CHEMPACK assets during the COVID-19 pandemic. https://www.gnyha.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ASPR_CHEMPACK-guidance-4.2.2020.pdf
- A recent study, published in *Nature Medicine*, found that surgical masks reduced the emission of droplets and aerosols exhaled by symptomatic patients. The masks resulted in a significant reduction in coronavirus detected in aerosols and a "trend toward reduced detection" for respiratory droplets. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0843-2>

The White House

- The President's 30 Days to Slow the Spread: On March 31, President Trump extended the Coronavirus Guidelines for America through April 30. https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

- The FDA has now created a Daily Update that provides a summary to the public regarding the latest information. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup-april-6-2020>
- For updated FAQs on diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/faqs-diagnostic-testing-sars-cov-2>
- For updated "Enforcement policy for face masks and respirators during COVID-19 public health emergency" (Revised April 2020): <https://www.fda.gov/media/136449/download>
- The FDA coordinates national effort to develop blood-related therapies for COVID-19: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-coordinates-national-effort-develop-blood-related-therapies-covid-19>
- The FDA provides guidance document on "Enforcement policy for infusion pumps and accessories during the COVID-19 public health emergency" <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/enforcement-policy-infusion-pumps-and-accessories-during-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-public>

Health and Human Services (HHS)

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/coronavirus/index.html>

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) supports state, territorial and tribal public health labs with COVID-19 rapid point-of-care test <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/06/hhs-supports-state-territorial-and-tribal-public-health-labs-with-covid-19-rapid-point-of-care-test.html>
HHS announces upcoming funding action to provide \$186 million for COVID-19 response <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/06/hhs-announces-upcoming-funding-action-provide-186-million-covid19-response.html>
- HHS releases report of “hospital experiences responding to the COVID-19 pandemic: Results of a national pulse survey March 23-27, 2020” <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-20-00300.pdf>
- HHS announces Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration will fund \$110 million in emergency grants to provide treatment for substance use disorders/serious mental illness during the coronavirus pandemic <https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/202004031100>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/index.html>

- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) updated clinical guidance and training resources/webinars for healthcare professionals responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/training.html>
- CDC updated SARS-CoV-2 transmission information. The current guidance reflects growing evidence that transmission by asymptomatic individuals—including during the incubation period before symptoms present and by infected individuals that never develop symptoms—is possible, based on “recent studies” demonstrating this capability. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- On April 3, 2020, the CDC updated guidance regarding the use of masks among the general public. The CDC “recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.” <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>
- On April 3, 2020, the CDC updated guidance on the optimization of PPE during the COVID-19 pandemic. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM25135

Daily updates of cases in United States:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>

CDC's new weekly COVID-19 surveillance report:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview.html>

CDC's "Resources for hospitals and healthcare professionals preparing for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19":

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/preparedness-checklists.html>

CDC's latest "Information for healthcare professionals: COVID-19 and underlying conditions:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/underlying-conditions.html>

CDC's latest "Strategies for optimizing the supply of N95 respirators", please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>

Clinical Trials

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=COVID-19>

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Guidance for long-term care facilities:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/4220-covid-19-long-term-care-facility-guidance.pdf>

Dear Clinician Letter issued on April 6

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-dear-clinician-letter.pdf>

American Red Cross

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/plasma-donations-from-recovered-covid-19-patients.html>

State Updates

New York

- The State launched a COVID-19 tracker to provide New York State's comprehensive testing data to the public. This will be updated daily with the latest data, presents visualizations of statewide and county-level testing and results. www.ny.gov/covid-19tracker
- A new COVID-19 drive-thru mobile testing center opened in Albany on April 6. The mobile testing center will be located in a parking lot at the State University of New York at Albany campus at 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany. The site will prioritize tests for individuals who are among the highest risk population. Capital District residents who would like to be tested *must* make an appointment by calling 888-364-3065. There will be no walk-ins allowed and all patients must be in a vehicle.
- Oregon Governor Kate Brown has offered to provide New York with 140 ventilators from Oregon's stockpile.
- Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed an Executive Order on April 4 allowing medical students slated to graduate in the Spring to begin practicing immediately.

- The federal government is deploying 1,000 personnel to New York State. The personnel include doctors, nurses, respiratory technicians and therapists to help the state's overwhelmed hospital systems. The first 325 personnel were deployed to the New York City hospital system on April 5. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-announces-federal-government-deploying>
- A mental health hotline is available to New Yorkers. We can't underestimate the impact this pandemic is having on mental health. New Yorkers can call the state's hotline at 1-844-863-9314 to get free emotional support, consultations and referrals to a provider.
- New York will stay on PAUSE for an additional two weeks through April 29. Governor Cuomo is directing schools and nonessential businesses to stay closed through April 29. The State will re-evaluate after this additional period.
- The South Beach Psychiatric Center in Staten Island and the Brooklyn Center Temporary Hospital at 170 Buffalo Avenue will open this week and will be used specifically for COVID-19 patients.

New York Blood Center

- New York Blood Center to collect first blood plasma donations from recovered COVID-19 patients to treat severe cases
<https://www.nybc.org/news/articles/new-york-blood-center-collect-first-blood-plasma-donations-recovered-covid-19-patients-treat-severe-cases/>

New York State Department of Health

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

Latest information about COVID-19 testing:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing#overview>

List of positive cases by county in New York State:

<https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

NYS DOH issues guidance for resident and family communication in Adult Care Facilities (ACFs) and Nursing Homes (NHs)

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/doh_covid19_acf-nh_residentfamilycommunication_040420.pdf

NYS DOH Weekly healthcare provider update:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/weekly-healthcare-provider-update>

New Jersey

- Administrative Order AO-08 allows municipalities and counties to impose additional restrictions in response to COVID-19 on the ability of hotels, motels, guesthouses, or

private residences, or parts thereof, to accept new transient guests or seasonal tenants. http://d31hzhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20200404/76/54/49/6d/782ba5a402ce762190ffdf92/AO_2020-8.pdf

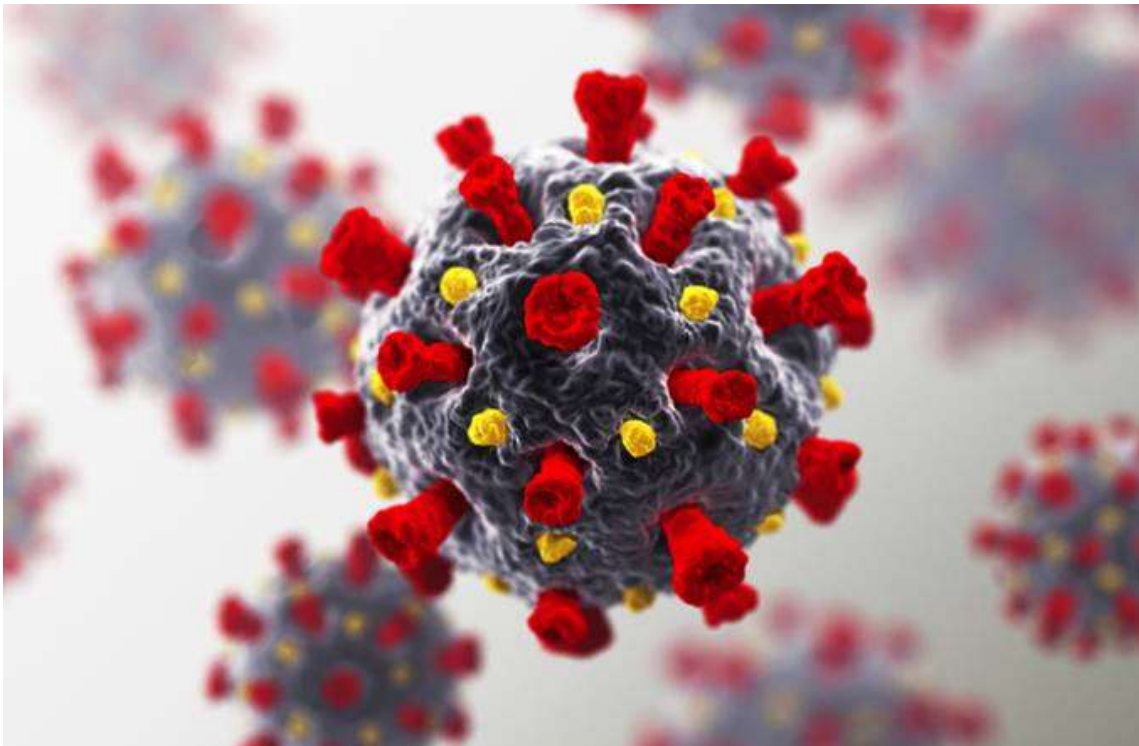
- Governor Phil Murphy signs Executive Order 113 authorizing commandeering of property such as medical supplies. <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-113.pdf>
- To further strengthen the ability of New Jersey's public workforce to respond to COVID-19, Governor Murphy today signed Executive Order No. 115, allowing retirees to return to State and local government employment without impacting their retirement pensions and removing restrictions on law enforcement's ability to temporarily supplement their ranks. <http://d31hzhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20200406/6c/7e/e6/75/74a3f45781dab9e0594d98d7/EO-115.pdf>

Connecticut

- Executive Order 7T updated certain terms:
 - Prohibition on non-essential lodging: Prohibits all hotels, motels, inns, bed and breakfasts, and short-term residential rentals (including online hosting platforms such as Airbnb and Vrbo) from renting to customers for leisure or vacation purposes. Instead, lodging at these facilities must be limited to:
 - Health care workers, first responders, and other essential workers;
 - Workers engaged in transporting critical materials to hospitals;
 - Vulnerable populations, including those who are homeless;
 - Connecticut residents who need a place to self-quarantine away from family or roommates;
 - Those receiving long-term care or specialized medical treatment;
 - Connecticut residents in need of housing as a result of property damage, such as a fire;
 - Persons unable to return home because of constraints on travel; and
 - Persons engaged in providing or servicing lodging.
 - Flexibility to maintain adequate childcare infrastructure: Provides the commissioner of Early Childhood with the authority to implement a financial package to compensate emergency child care and stabilize the child care field to support providers through the emergency response. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7U.pdf>
- Governor Ned Lamont and his administration called upon residents to take up volunteer roles in their communities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those interested in volunteering should visit ct.gov/coronavirus for information on how to register.
- Governor Lamont, in partnership with the Connecticut Broadcasters Association, announced the launch of the "Stay Safe, Stay Home" public service campaign. The ads will be placed with CBA member stations across radio and television, and they will also be translated into Spanish.
- Executive Order 7U offered the following protections:
 - Protection from civil liability for actions or omissions in support of the state's COVID-19 response: Protects health care professionals and health care

facilities, including nursing homes and field hospitals, from lawsuits for acts or omissions undertaken in good faith in support of the state's COVID-19 response. State statutes already provide similar protections for other first responders, including police, firefighters, and EMS.

- Financial protections for the uninsured and people covered by insurance who receive out-of-network health care services during the public health emergency: Protects those who are uninsured and those who are insured and are treated by an out-of-network emergency services health care provider from surprise bills and other significant costs. This will ensure that individuals receiving care are not being financially burdened.
- FEMA approves Lamont administration's request to include domestic violence survivors in non-congregate housing guidelines.



Local Updates

New York City

- City hospitals will be receiving Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) support kits from Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) on April 7, which include a variety of needed PPE (masks, gowns, gloves, post-mortem bags).

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>

The latest Mayoral update on personnel, ventilators and personal protective equipment:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/226-20/as-city-fights-covid-19-mayor-de-blasio-new-yorkers-personnel-ventilators-personal>

Westchester County Department of Health

<https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus>

- On March 31, 2020, Westchester County DOH Commissioner Issues Protocols for Essential Personnel to Return to Work following COVID-19 exposure or infection
<https://health.westchestergov.com/images/stories/PDF/03312020nysprotoleasantpersonnelreturnwork.pdf>
- For the latest daily COVID-19 briefing (April 6) from Westchester County Executive George Latimer:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qutzjliC3tM&feature=youtu.be>

Putnam County Department of Health

<https://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus/>

Dutchess County Department of Health

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm>

Orange County Department of Health

<https://www.orangecountygov.com/1906/2019-Novel-Coronavirus-Information>

Rockland County Department of Health

<https://rocklandgov.com/departments/health/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Healthcare

- Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA) posts daily updates on community-based organizations (CBOs) open during the statewide emergency to its publicly available directory, Health Information Tool for Empowerment (HITE). A temporary COVID-19 filter allows users to search by operating status of organizations and their services, including on-site/regular operations, remote operations, pick-up, and delivery. <http://www.hitesite.org>

For the latest COVID-19 information for healthcare facilities from the GNYHA that covers hospitals in the tristate area:

<https://www.gnyha.org/>

GNYHA's second letter to Health and Human Services (HHS) requesting funding for NY hospitals' response to COVID-19: <https://www.gnyha.org/news/gnyha-sends-second-letter-to-hhs-requesting-funding-for-ny-hospitals-response-to-covid-19/>

For the latest information on agency prevention and treatment guidance:

<https://www.gnyha.org/tool/cdc-doh-and-dohmh-prevention-and-treatment-guidance/>

Center for Disaster Medicine Updates

Media

New York Medical College Leadership News:

Do Plasma Infusions Help Save Lives of Coronavirus Patients?

Radio.com

4/7/2020

<https://www.radio.com/news/do-plasma-infusions-help-save-lives-of-coronavirus-patients>

Alan Kadish, M.D., president

Does Wearing Gloves Help Prevent Coronavirus? Doctors Explain Why They're Problematic

Good Housekeeping

4/6/2020

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health/a32058081/does-wearing-gloves-prevent-coronavirus/>

Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., vice president for government affairs and dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice

Experts Say Wearing Gloves Inside Grocery Stores Gives 'False Sense Of Security'

Smart Parenting

4/7/2020

https://www.smartparenting.com.ph/health/your-health/wearing-gloves-to-prevent-coronavirus-a00228-20200407?ref=home_feed_1

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Grocery workers, customers wary during virus. Stores rushing to protect them

Last Vegas Review Journal

4/4/2020

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/investigations/grocery-workers-customers-wary-during-virus-stores-rushing-to-protect-them-1997555/>

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What is plasma therapy for coronavirus treatment and does it work?

Fox News

4/3/2020

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/lifestyle/plasma-therapy-coronavirus-treatment>

Alan Kadish, M.D., president

Men's beards could render face masks useless — one surprisingly comprehensive graphic from the CDC reveals why 'walrus' is fine but 'mutton chops' won't do

Business Insider

4/3/2020

<https://www.businessinsider.com/cdc-recommends-different-facial-hairstyles-work-better-with-face-masks-2020-2>

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Former CDC Official Breaks Down Effectiveness of New Guidelines to Cover Your Face

Spectrum News NY1

4/3/2020

<https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/inside-city-hall/2020/04/04/coronavirus-how-effective-is-covering-your-face-former-cdc-official-discusses>

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A Comprehensive Guide to Masks

Slate

4/3/2020

<https://slate.com/technology/2020/04/comprehensive-guide-masks.html>

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Should You Wear a Mask While Grocery Shopping? Experts Explain New CDC Recommendations

Good Housekeeping

4/4/2020

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health/wellness/a32038711/should-i-wear-face-masks-to-grocery-stores-coronavirus/>

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Done with Your Grocery Run? How to Properly Disinfect Your Clothes When Returning Home

Smart Parenting

4/3/2020

<https://www.smartparenting.com.ph/life/home/disinfect-clothes-covid-19-a00228-20200403>

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As coronavirus deaths and cases soar, should New York leaders have acted sooner?

USA Today

4/2/2020

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2020/04/02/coronavirus-cases-soar-should-new-york-leaders-have-acted-sooner/5110574002/>

Robert W. Amler, M.D., M.B.A., vice president for government affairs and dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice

Faculty News:

Weighing the economics, public health benefits of sheltering in place

Modern Healthcare

4/6/2020

<https://www.modernhealthcare.com/opinion-editorial/weighing-economics-public-health-benefits-sheltering-place>

Ira J. Bedzow, Ph.D., associate professor of medicine and director of the Biomedical Ethics and Humanities Program
Adam E. Block, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health in the Division of Health Policy and Management

Jewish coronavirus updates: Israel under lockdown, attending a Facetime funeral and more

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

4/7/2020

<https://www.jta.org/2020/03/05/global/the-latest-jewish-coronavirus-updates-el-al-downsizes-services-move-online-and-more>

Ira J. Bedzow, Ph.D., associate professor of medicine and director of the Biomedical Ethics and Humanities Program

What happens when we run out of ventilators? Jewish law and state guidelines may have different answers.

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

4/2/2020

<https://www.jta.org/2020/04/02/opinion/what-happens-when-we-run-out-of-ventilators-jewish-law-and-state-guidelines-may-have-different-answers>

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Too Little or Too Late: US Senate Response to Public Health Crises

The Globe Post

4/3/2020

<https://theglobepost.com/2020/04/03/us-health-senate/>

Adam E. Block, Ph.D., assistant professor of public health in the Division of Health Policy and Management

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